

Today's News - Monday, May 16, 2016

- We lose Italian-born, American-turned-Australian Giurgola, a master and a mentor to generations.
- Smith practically swoons for Snøhetta's SFMOMA with its "continual surprises of the building's design and details - a beautiful thing that promises to work as well."
- Ingalls hails SFMOMA as "the anti-Bilbao: if not in effect, then certainly in intention" that doesn't attempt "to awe the visitor with scale, but rather with its accessibility. Egalitarianism never looked so good."
- Meanwhile, word is out that San Francisco is hoping to lure the Lucas Museum from Chicago back to the City by the Bay by offering up Treasure Island (could the third time be a charm?).
- Saffron is not all that sanguine about Philly's must-see architecture for architects attending the AIA convention this week (we're looking forward to seeing new parts along the waterfront!).
- An NFL player-turned-developer has big plans to build America's first solar-powered community of 19,500 homes - he "wants to build the small town of the future. Just don't call it a utopia. He hates that."
- Meier tells the oh-so-sad tale of Goff's Bavinger House: it was "not just demolished but ripped out of the ground - but hopefully the loss will be a reminder to preserve what remains of Goff's career" (with fab and sad photos of a number of his projects).
- Word is that Rosen plans to replace Four Seasons furniture with remakes from Knoll: a "reorder would be a small victory for preservationists and a sign that maybe Rosen's major blunders ended with the Picasso curtain that was removed in 2014."
- Freeman minces no words re: the fate of the Four Seasons, which he helped restore in 2008: even if Rosen replaces the furniture with replicas "because he can, to mark his territory - it just won't be the same."
- The "Athens of the Prairie" (a.k.a. Columbus, Indiana) plans to launch a biennial design exhibition in 2017: the "mecca of midcentury modernism is a well-preserved glimpse into the transformative power of architecture when implemented citywide."
- Hawthorne has high hopes for Agence Ter team's competition-winning design for L.A.'s Pershing Square that "is elegantly simple" in its "radical flatness."
- Lange has long conversations with West 8's Geuze re: his many projects on both sides of the Big Pond, and how "parks have become the new architecture stars."
- McGarrigle examines how Hadid, Gray, and Eames "blazed a trail" for women architects, but "if architecture was a struggle for a force of nature such as Hadid, what does that mean for the progression of other women today?"
- In an Architizer/Dezeen venture, bunches of very notable names talk about Zaha, "her extraordinary life and how she inspired them personally."
- One we couldn't resist (and you shouldn't either!): Sanders delves into the history of and the "strangely magical views from Manhattan's observation decks" - with astonishingly gorgeous photos of truly magical views by Dukovic.

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Obituary: Romaldo Giurgola, 95: The Italian who designed Australia's Parliament House: ...spent much of his life as an academic, becoming chair of the Columbia architectural department in 1966...decided to make Canberra his permanent home...in 1988...numerous global honours...including the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal in 1982. -- Mitchell/Giurgola Architects; Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp- Business Insider Australia

SFMOMA's Expansion Sets a New Standard for Museums: It's not just the abundance of art gifts but the continual surprises of the building's design and details...a beautiful thing that promises to work as well...raising museum standards for synergy between interior and exterior; between art viewing and viewer comfort...poised...to do for the late 20th and 21st centuries what its East Coast cousin did for the art of the late 19th and early 20th. By Roberta Smith -- Snøhetta; Mario Botta- New York Times

Snøhetta's expanded SFMOMA is 235,000 square feet of egalitarianism: It is the anti-Bilbao: if not in effect, then certainly in intention...This is not a museum that attempts to awe the visitor with scale, but rather with its accessibility..admission to anyone under 18 will remain free, while the first and second floors now effectively function as some of the most beautiful interior public space in the city. Egalitarianism never looked so good. By Julia Ingalls [images]- Archinect

San Francisco official says city is in talks to take Lucas Museum from Chicago: floating an alternative site with potentially far fewer hurdles...Treasure Island, a landfill turned naval base that is now under redevelopment...The biggest challenge for the museum would be transportation...there have been in behind-the-scenes discussions about possible locations in the city and suburbs that may lure the Lucas project back to the West Coast.- Chicago Tribune

Architects convention won't find much architecture in Philly boom: High on the AIA's list of must-see sites are the Barnes Foundation and...Singh Center for Nanotechnology...they rank among the best new buildings in America. But our everyday buildings...aren't getting the same first-class architectural treatment...Designers and developers have begun to master the basics of good urbanism...maybe Philadelphia developers will start to get the architecture right, too. By Inga Saffron [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Solar Energy-Loving NFL Vet Syd Kitson Is Building the Smartest Town in Florida: The plan for America's first solar-powered community is ambitious, to put it mildly...Babcock Ranch, a planned community of 19,500 homes...wants to build the small town of the future. Just don't call it a utopia. He hates that. -- Looney Ricks Kiss; Kimley-Horn; Harvard Jolly Architecture [images]- Inverse

An Icon of Midcentury Organic Modern Architecture Is Destroyed: A spiraling 1955 house...not just demolished but ripped out of the ground...Bruce Goff's Bavinger House in Norman, Oklahoma..There's no reversing the destruction, but hopefully the loss...will be a reminder to preserve what remains of Goff's career... By Allison Meier [images]- Hyperallergic

EXCLUSIVE: Aby Rosen to replace Four Seasons furniture with remakes from Knoll: ...negotiations to buy the furniture from Four Seasons owners...fell through...prompting the duo to auction them...reorder would be a small victory for preservationists and a sign that maybe Rosen's major blunders ended with the Picasso curtain that was removed in 2014. -- Mies van der Rohe; Philip Johnson [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

It Makes Me Sick: Belmont Freeman on the Four Seasons: Freeman, who worked on the restoration...in 2008, gives his take on the future of this endangered, important space: "I think that Aby Rosen just wants to make changes because he can, to mark his territory...Even if he replaces all of the furniture with shiny new replicas from Knoll...it just won't be the same." By Vanessa Quirk -- Philip Johnson; Phyllis Lambert; Annabelle Selldorf; William T. Georgis - Metropolis Magazine

Columbus, Indiana announces biennial design exhibition to begin in fall 2017: ...known as the "Athens of the Prairie": a mecca of midcentury modernism in an idyllic, small midwestern town...a well-preserved glimpse into the transformative power of architecture when implemented citywide...competition winners will receive the J. Irvin Miller and Xenia S. Miller Prize. -- Aranda\Lasch; Baumgartner + Uriu; Rachel Hayes; Höweler + Yoon; IKD; Mel Kendrick; Johnston Marklee/Jonathan Olivares; Oyler Wu Collaborative; Plan B Architecture & Urbanism; studio:indigenous - The Architect's Newspaper

French landscape firm wins Pershing Square competition with call for 'radical flatness': The newest plan...is elegantly simple...focuses on opening the park directly to the sidewalks around it...In trying to make up for the sins of parking-obsessed planners of an earlier generation, the Agence Ter team faces a challenge...Retrofitting the car-centric urban landscapes of

postwar Los Angeles to make them more accessible... By Christopher Hawthorne -- Ricardo Legorreta/Laurie Olin (1994); SALT Landscape Architects; Pentagram; Deborah Murphy Urban Design + Planning; Rachel Allen [images]- Los Angeles Times

Play Ground: How a Dutch landscape architect is reinventing the park: If the High Line provides an elevated perspective on the industrial cityscape, the new geography of Governors Island offers one for the bay...Parks have become the new architecture stars... By Alexandra Lange -- Adriaan Geuze/West 8; Mathews Nielsen- New Yorker

Women building a brave new world: Female architects were few and far between until Zaha Hadid, Eileen Gray and Ray Eames blazed a trail: Hadid..held special significance to any woman who wished to break into the beaux arts and then to smash any glass ceiling to smithereens...if architecture was a struggle for a force of nature such as Hadid, what does that mean for the progression of other women today? By Niall McGriggle- Irish Times

"A Great Architect, a Great Person": An Emotional Tribute to Zaha Hadid by Libeskind, Rogers, Foster and More: ...Architizer partnered with Dezeen and spoke with some of architecture's leading lights and a host of creative influencers about Zaha, her extraordinary life and how she inspired them personally. [images, video]- Architizer

Where New York Meets the Sky: The strangely magical views from Manhattan's observation decks: The rooftop observation deck is one of the city's most distinctive architectural traditions...In a world of digital simulation, what is the enduring attraction of actually standing on a high building and looking out on the city? Being on top of a skyscraper creates a sense of transcendence... By James Sanders; Photographs by Pari Dukovic [images]- New Yorker



Breathe Architecture: The Commons, Melbourne, Australia: ...a raw and captivating piece of architecture. It's also the prototype for a new development model, called Nightingale...It sits in stark contrast to current housing models, which remain unaffordable and conservative in their ambitions. [images]

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